

What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
 Sylhet Sixers v Comilla Victorians
 Live from 2:00pm
 Khulna Titans v Dhaka Dynamites

Dynamites
 Live from 7:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
 English Premier League
 Tottenham v Crystal Palace
 Live from 6:00pm

Man City v Arsenal
 Live from 8:15pm
 Chelsea v Man United
 Live from 10:30pm
TEN 1
 Serie A

Inter Milan v Torino
 Live from 5:30pm
 Juventus v Benevento
 Live from 8:00pm
 Sassuolo v AC Milan
 Live from 1:45am (Monday)

TEN 2
La Liga
 Levante v Girona
 Live from 5:00pm
 Celta v Athletic Bilbao
 Live from 9:15pm

Villarreal v Malaga
 Live from 11:30pm
Real Madrid v Las Palmas
 Live from 1:45am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
 Sylhet Sixers v Comilla Victorians
 Time: 2:00pm
 Khulna Titans v Dhaka Dynamites
 Time: 7:00pm
 Venue: SICS, Sylhet

Bashundhara Kings win Championship League

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings clinched the title of the Bangladesh Championship League -- the second-tier of the professional football league -- in their maiden appearance after a dramatic 2-1 victory over Agrani Bank at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

The new entrants of professional football, who were introduced into the second-tier right after their Pioneer League appearance in the previous year, rode on two late strikes from ageless striker Rokonzaman Kanchan after Agrani Bank had taken the lead early in the second-half through Amir Hakim.

Having come into the match with 32 points from 16 matches, Bashundhara Kings needed a win to take an unassailable lead over second-placed Nofel Sporting Club, who have 28 points from the same number of matches.

And the cash-rich side, bankrolled by the Bashundhara Group and deemed fit for professional football due to having fulfilled the conditions put forward by the game's governing body, were all ready to celebrate the title in style. The club's patrons were in presence at the stands

while around eight thousand supporters thronged the galleries with flags, placards and trumpets. The supporters kept trumpeting all through the first half in anticipation of their impending glory.

But Agrani Bank, the side second from the bottom in the 10-team table, made things hard for the champion aspirants in the first half as there were hardly any open chances. The Bankers started the second half strongly and Tenjing Norkak got close to breaking the deadlock on 55 minutes when he rounded off the Bashundhara Kings goalkeeper, only to blast straight at the goalkeeper.

Bashundhara Kings' Mohiuddin Rassel and Arif Hossain missed two easy chances before Agrani bank's Amir Hakim made them pay with a fine solo effort in the 63rd minute.

All the trumpets and vuvuzelas suddenly fell silent as the Bashundhara Kings supporters thought their party would have to wait for another day.

But then there was a sudden drop of guard in Agrani Bank's play, who looked more intent on passing the ball around without much effort to move the ball towards the opposition goal. Although the Agrani Bank goalkeeper produced some fine saves, their defence was look-

ing extremely lethargic and vulnerable.

The 37-year-old Kanchan, once a prominent striker of the national team, took full advantage of the opposition's lackadaisical approach, poking in two goals from almost unmarked situations on the 68th and 82nd minutes. The two goals made him the top-scorer in the league with 12 goals as Bashundhara Kings trudged towards the title.

They even had the luxury of fielding the club's president-cum-player Imrul Hasan as a striker for a few minutes before the final whistle. Imrul, who did not play in any of the previous matches, did not get to touch the ball, but was nevertheless happy to indulge in the winning feeling with his players. And so was Kanchan, and the team's head coach Asifuzzaman, the entire coaching staff and advisers and a host of fans.

Bashundhara Kings' success follows the path of Saif Sporting Club, who also won the Championship League title in their maiden appearance in any level of football last season before becoming one of the contenders for the Bangladesh Premier League this season. Whether cash-rich Bashundhara Kings, which was formed in 2013, will be able to step up their game when playing against the big boys is something only time will tell.



Veteran striker Rokonzaman Kanchan was the toast of his teammates as his 12 goals including two against Agrani Bank at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday powered the newcomers to the Bangladesh Championship League title.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



New Zealand opener Colin Munro put India's bowlers to the sword, smiting an unbeaten 58-ball 109 in the second T20I in Rajkot yesterday.

Munro levels series

AFP, Rajkot



Colin Munro Saturday said he was relishing batting top of the order after his blistering century powered New Zealand to a series-leveling win against India in the second Twenty20 international.

Munro, a middle-order batsman who was promoted to open the innings in India, smashed an unbeaten 58-ball 109 to propel the Kiwis to 196-2 in Rajkot.

Kiwi fast bowler Trent Boult then claimed four wickets to restrict India to 156-7 despite a valiant 42-ball 65 from Indian skipper Virat Kohli.

But it was Munro's supreme batting show that set up New Zealand's 40-run win after their opening loss to India in the three-match series.

"I love batting at the top of the order, getting the team off to a flyer with Guppy (Martin Guptill)," the left-handed batsman said after receiving the man of the match award.

"The way I bat is the same every time, whether I'm chasing 200 or 120. Go out there, stay still and try and hit fours and sixes," he added.

Munro put on 105 runs for the opening wicket with Guptill, to lay a solid foundation after the Kiwis elected to bat first on a wicket that promised runs.

Munro made the most of his two reprieves, on 45 and 79, to register his second T20 ton -- in just 54 balls.

"Few chances went my way, but that's T20 cricket, you need luck in your way. Felt good with the bat, but had been getting out at funny times," Munro, who made an impact in the preceding ODI series that the Kiwis lost 2-1, said.

Munro also got the wicket of Shreyas Iyer, who scored

PHOTO: AFP

23, with his right-arm medium pace to make India slip further after Boult rattled the Indian top-order.

Boult got openers Shikhar Dhawan bowled, for one, and Sharma caught behind, for five, to leave India struggling at 11-2 after two overs.

Kohli tried his level best during his fifty-plus partnerships with Iyer and then Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who scored 49, but the climbing run-rate got to him.

The star batsman finally fell to Mitchell Santner's left-arm spin and with him India's hopes faded away.

The hosts though were always left playing catching up after Munro and Guptill, who scored 45, hammered the Indian bowling.

Guptill hit Yuzvendra Chahal for two sixes and a four in the leg-spinner's first over to make his intent clear.

Chahal finally got his revenge after denying Guptill, who smashed 3 fours and 3 sixes in his 41-ball knock, a fifty but the damage had already been done.

Debutant paceman Mohammed Siraj gave away 53 runs in four overs but got his maiden international wicket in skipper Kane Williamson for 12.

Munro, who hit 7 fours and 7 sixes, and Tom Bruce, who scored 18, signed off with a 56-run unbeaten stand for the third wicket.

"I thought New Zealand were really good with the bat early on," said Kohli.

The action now moves to the deciding match in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: 196 for 2 in 20 overs (Guptill 45, Munro 109 not out; Chahal 1-36)
INDIA: 156 for 7 in 20 overs (Kohli 65, Dhoni 49; Boult 4-34, Munro 1-23)
Result: New Zealand won by 40 runs
Player-of-the-match: Colin Munro

Int'l Junior Tennis from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER



The 31st Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships will get underway in Dhaka tomorrow, with 106 boys and girls from 17 countries taking part.

The six-day competition will offer ranking points and will feature four categories -- boys' singles and doubles, girls' singles and doubles -- for the under-18 aged players.

A total of 68 boys from different districts will compete in the boys' competitions, with Rishav Sarda of India being the top seed and Jian Keong of Malaysia the second seed.

In the girls' section, a total of 38 participants will take part where Wei Ning Fang of Chinese Taipei is the top seed and her compatriot Yu Ching Tsai is the second seeded.

A total of 28 Bangladeshi players including 16 boys and six girls will take part in the tournament directly while six boys will have to compete in the qualification round to seal berths in the main tournament.

International referee Joy Mukharjee of India, who is here to officiate in the tournament, said top players can earn some important rating points from this competition.

"The winner of the singles events will get 30 rating points while the runner-up will be given 20 points. In doubles event, winning pair will get 20 points each while the runners-up pair will earn 15 points each," Mukharjee said during a press conference at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation's general secretary Golam Morshed was, among others, present at the press conference.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Keita accused of using forged driving licences
 Liverpool-bound midfielder Naby Keita could face a six-figure fine after allegedly twice using forged licences to try to obtain a German driving permit, a report claimed.

Peerless Celtic break British unbeaten record
 French striker Moussa Dembele scored one and created another two as Celtic thrashed St Johnstone 4-0 to break their own 100-year British record of unbeaten domestic matches.

Free-scoring Valencia put pressure on Barca
 Valencia swept aside Leganes 3-0 as they continued their stunning form with an eighth straight win to close to within a point of La Liga leaders Barcelona.

A license to score

How Connery could have been 'The Busby Bond'

STAR SPORT DESK

Before he was licensed to kill, Sean Connery worked the streets of Edinburgh as a driver of a horse-drawn milk cart, lifeguard, day laborer, and artists' model. He also played as a number seven for a Midlothian club with the perfectly Scottish name of Bonnyrigg Rose, where he apparently unleashed at least one 30 yard screamer for a 3-1 win over Broxburn Athletic, which was enough to warrant some attention from Scottish side East Fife.

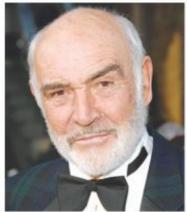
"I played for Bonnyrigg Rose," Connery recalled in an interview. "And I was offered a trial by East Fife. That's the truth. Celtic, no."

In 1953, Connery was on a touring production that came to Manchester. He played in a friendly between the production company's best XI and some locals in a match that just happened to be scouted by one Matt Busby, who was then the manager of a quiet little club called Manchester United.

Busby was impressed with Connery's physicality and offered him a 25 pound-per-week contract there on the spot. Connery turned it down, reasoning that if he became a professional footballer, he'd likely be retired by age 30, whereas this acting thing just might be able to provide him with a longer working life.

"I really wanted to accept [Matt Busby's offer] because I loved football," recalled Connery. "But I realised that a top-class footballer could be over the hill by the age of 30, and I was already 23. I decided to become an actor and it turned out to be one of my more intelligent moves."

Think about it. James Bond could've been a Busby Babe!



Indefinite suspension for Evra

AFP, Marseille

Patrice Evra was handed an initial one-match ban by UEFA and suspended by his club Marseille on Friday after the veteran defender aimed a karate kick at the head of one of his team's own supporters.

The former Manchester United star was red-carded for the assault during the pre-match warm-up at Thursday's Europa League clash at Guimaraes in Portugal.

Marseille said that club president Jacques-Henri Eyraud had met the 36-year-old to inform him of the suspension and warned that he could face further "disciplinary action."

"Marseille also denounced the unacceptable behaviour of some fans who hurled hateful insults," said a club statement.

Earlier, European football governing body UEFA said Evra was banned for "violent conduct" and indicated that the former French international faced further sanctions at a disciplinary hearing next week.

Both Marseille and Guimaraes were also charged over their fans invading the pitch.

100 up for Cavani as PSG romp

AFP, Paris



The injured Neymar was left at home as Edinson Cavani reached a century of goals in Ligue 1 with a brace in Paris Saint-Germain's 5-0 romp away to Angers on Saturday.

The world's most expensive player sat out the game at the Stade Raymond Kopa with a minor thigh problem picked up in the mid-week Champions League win over Anderlecht but he was not missed as PSG went provisionally seven points clear at the top of the table from Monaco.

Kylian Mbappe and Julian Draxler both scored early goals and Cavani netted his 100th in France's top flight on the half-hour mark.

The Uruguayan scored again on the hour mark before Mbappe grabbed his second of the day late on to take him to six goals in 12 appearances for the club.

A second successive five-goal victory for PSG means they remain unbeaten in all competitions this season, while Angers are still without a win at home.

As well as Neymar, PSG were without Marquinhos and Angel Di Maria, whose partners have both given birth in recent days. Coach Unai Emery therefore opted to give a first start since August to Javier Pastore.

PSG's opener arrived inside five minutes



as Mbappe turned in a Dani Alves cross from the right, and it was 2-0 before quarter of an hour had been played.

Again Alves was the provider with a delightful through ball for Draxler, who beat Mathieu Michel with a clipped first-time finish.

The third goal that allowed Cavani to reach his century came at the end of a brilliant move, with Alves finding Adrien Rabiot, who released Mbappe to showcase his lightning pace and set up Cavani to blast home.

Cavani, signed from Napoli in 2013, reached the landmark on his 145th Ligue 1 appearance and joins a select club in having scored 100 times in two of Europe's big five leagues having also achieved the feat in Serie A.

The only others to have done so are Gonzalo Higuain (Spain and Italy) and Zlatan Ibrahimovic (France and Italy).

He is also well on course to catch Ibrahimovic as the club's all-time top scorer in the league, with the Swede hitting 113 in his four seasons with the club.

Cavani hit his 101st -- his 13th of this season -- in trademark fashion, starting his run in the right-back position and bursting forward to collect a Draxler pass before toe-poking home.

Mbappe completed the rout as he rounded Michel and scored from a tight angle after being released by Lucas Moura.

Jamal's steep fall

SPORTS REPORTER

Jamal Hossain Mollah slipped to 36th position on the leaderboard after a disastrous third round of the Panasonic India Open yesterday.

The 32-year-old golfer, who held the 11th position overnight following some excellent golf in the opening two rounds, endured a horror time at the Delhi Golf on Saturday, carding four-over-par (76).

The two-time PGII winner's card was littered with bogeys -- six in all -- against just two birdies he managed on the day, taking his overall tally to one-under-par (215).

Meanwhile, overnight leader Paul Peterson was joined at the top by India's Shiv Kapur, both currently at 13-under-par (203).

Bale back in training

AFP, Madrid

Wales winger Gareth Bale returned to training on Friday offering Real Madrid a boost.

The 28-year-old had been out since the end of September with a calf injury.

Real could also see Raphael Varane and Dani Carvajal return to the fold after they partially took part in training.